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TheHighlander

Thursday March 13 2025 | Issue 680

INSIDE: FLOODING FORECAST PAGE 3 FREE

Chilling with the chin ...

Chinchillas have incredibe balance, as Addie Hamilton found out at Zoo to You at the Minden Hills community centre March 10 for March break. See more photos on page 23. *Photo by Justin Belanger.*

Highlands reacts to tariff threat

By Mike Baker

Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce executive director Amanda Conn expects "all industries will be significantly impacted" by sweeping tariffs between Canada and the U.S., though many County entrepreneurs are seeing this as an opportunity to diversify their operations.

The Canadian government implemented a 25 per cent tariff on $30 billion worth of goods imported from the U.S. March 4, in response to U.S. president Donald Trump's repeated threats to target Canadian-made products.

A 25 per cent U.S. tariff was to come into effect Feb. 4, then pushed to March 4, and now to April 2, with Trump continuing to tout the measures as a way to drive more manufacturing to the States.

Ontario premier Doug Ford applied a 25 per cent surcharge on Canadian electricity sold to the U.S. March 10, and introduced legislation preventing American companies from bidding for government contracts – with Trump threatening retaliatory sanctions on steel and aluminum products. Both sides have paused sanctions for now, though Conn said the trade war is causing angst in the County.

"There is a lot of concern over what this will do to prices – the tariffs will hurt our economy, the trouble now is, with all the changes, it's very difficult for our businesses to plan for next steps. Nobody really knows any more what's going to happen, or when," Conn told *The Highlander.*

Brandon Nimigon, chair of the Haliburton BIA, said he hasn't heard many issues from

Continued **'Time'** on page 2

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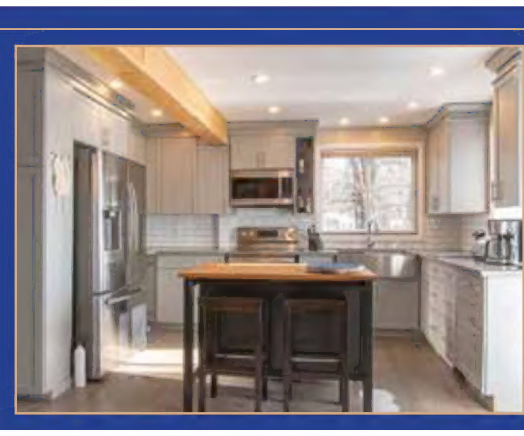

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Highlander news

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GARDENING FOR LIFE

'Time to show local pride'

Continued from page 1

small retailers in the downtown core, saying the impact is more likely to be felt by large-scale manufacturers.

Locally, he thinks this will also lead to a prolonged cool off in the construction industry, which he said has been struggling for the past six-to-eight months.

"With all this noise on lumber, steel, aluminum and other products… builders are concerned because, with those costs rising, that always translates to less people wanting to build things.

"Then it's the trickle-down effect – construction is a big industry in the County. If there's not a lot of new money coming into our local economy there, that slows down everything in every market," Nimigon said.

Opportunities elsewhere

Malcolm Cockwell, managing director at Haliburton Forest, said historically between 30 and 50 per cent of company products made in the County are shipped to the U.S.

"Last week in particular was very hectic, fielding calls from customers non-stop while things were basically changing hour-by-hour… this is something that is going to impact our business, but not in the way I think Mr. Trump intends.

"As a supplier, there's not really a whole lot to do. Tariffs are paid by the importer, so when we sell lumber to an American customer, and there's a big tariff on it, we don't pay that. The U.S. customer pays it," Cockwell said. "The most we can do is to try to expand our customer base."

He said about 10 per cent of the Forest's exports are international, which Cockwell expects to ramp up significantly in coming months. He's targeting more sales in Europe and Asia.

Matthew Roberts, operations manager at Heat-Line, a niche business located in Algonquin Highlands that specializes in developing and manufacturing advanced heating cables and water pipe freeze protection for residential and commercial markets, tells a similar story.

Roberts said about 32 per cent of the company's sales in 2024 were to U.S. customers, who would all be impacted by a blanket 25 per cent tariff. The company would also be hit on the other end, with approximately 40 per cent of the raw materials used to develop products sourced from the States.

The kicker, he said, is that there's no domestic alternative to the technology they ship, meaning the company has no option but to absorb those costs. He expects that will eventually lead to an approximate 15 per cent increase to Heat-Line's pricing.

"We're now in a situation where a local business that was strong, flourishing and looking to grow is taking a huge hit to its bottom line," Roberts said.

"Ultimately, nobody benefits from a trade war. Businesses just have to adapt as best they can," Cockwell added.

Food, drinks impacted

Mathew Renda, owner of Boshkung Brewing Co., said he's already starting to see the effects of the tariffs.

"We're seeing the cost of our cans go up roughly 10 cents per can, which is pretty substantial," he said, noting Boshkung imports all of its aluminum from the U.S. While most of the grain used in their beers are Canadian, more than half of the hops in their recipes are imported from Washington state.

"We're kind of getting hit on all sides … obviously on the food side too, we're already seeing some of our ingredients we purchase increase in price. That's going to hit everyone," Renda said.

He's holding off increasing prices for now, hoping the trade standoff will soon come to an amicable end.

Trevor Chaulk, who runs a cabinet manufacturing shop in Minden, is in the same boat. While his business hasn't been impacted – with about 90 per cent of their materials sourced in Canada and 95 to 98 per cent of clients based in Ontario – he's worried about the long-term economic impacts of a trade war.

"We have a lot of large manufacturers that export to the U.S. If these tariffs come into play, those companies are going to be losing lots of potential sales. The Canadian market will be flooded with lower pricing, creating pricing wars here, which will in turn increase overseas imports, so it's more important than ever to buy local.

"If these larger manufacturers start reducing costs just to keep products moving along, it's going to put a lot of small manufacturing companies out of business," Chaulk said.

Time to rally

Cockwell said this is also an opportunity for Canadian businesses to explore more domestic options for manufacturing and sales. He said the Forest is also "100 per cent supportive" of greater inter-provincial trade.

Barriers to certain products exist in most regions due to varying provincial regulations on things such as health and safety, product labelling, alcohol sales, and professional licensing.

"If this leads to the overall advancement and integration of the Canadian economy, leading to improved trade between provinces and territories, that would be a win. It wouldn't be a game-changer, but certainly a positive step in the right direction," he said. "Frankly, it's something that should have been done as a nation 20 years ago."

Cockwell said he's also anticipating the stand-off with the U.S. to result in Canadians taking fewer vacations south of the border, creating opportunities for improved tourism to the Highlands.

Conn said, with some County businesses only just getting back on their feet following the pandemic, it's more important than ever that Highlanders shop local.

"Shopping local is a grander message within Canada and one we want to echo as much as possible. We are continuing to look for ways to promote and identify Canadian-made goods. Now is the time to show that local pride on a regional, provincial and national level," Conn said. "It's important as Canadians to send a message we do support our own, especially when threatened."

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Mayor hopeful Gull River won't flood

By Lisa Gervais

Following a recent meeting with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR), Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter is cautiously optimistic there will be no major flooding in Minden this spring.

However, he said weather, such as rapidly warming temperatures with rain, can quickly impact the situation.

Carter said Parks Canada also participates in the MNR meetings to update municipal officials on conditions.

The mayor and County councillor said, "most, if not all, of the lakes are at, or below, average for right now. There's storage capacity in the lakes."

He added that at some point in the spring, when enough snow has melted, known as freshet, Parks Canada begins to put logs in at dams to start holding water back so there is enough for the summer.

Now, no logs are being added and water is flowing through reservoir lakes into rivers.

Carter said he asked about conditions to the south of the County, particularly Peterborough and the Otonabee River. He's been told Kawartha Lakes is melting at normal levels. "There's no problem with the amount of water that we can send down. Sometimes you have to hold water up here, not to flood somewhere down there. There's enough capacity through the whole Kawartha Lakes system and through the Otonabee River right now; everything is moving as is normal."

Carter added that moisture from the snowpack is considered to be "above average, but not wildly above average." He noted the MNR works off a 14-day weather forecast and "everything at this point is reasonable. But all it takes is one weekend of really hot weather with a rainstorm."

He added the lack of frost in the ground before the snow came is helping with a more gradual melt.

The mayor said the MNR is closely monitoring the situation and is in contact with townships as needed.

While "cautiously optimistic," he added, "our sandbagging equipment was taken out and lubricated and put in a totally-ready state. We've got plans to acquire any sand that we need. The roads and fire departments are working every day on it.

"We are working with MNR to keep on top of everything. It really comes down to what the weather does. It looks like it's going to be a bit drier according to the forecast, so that's good for us. At the same time, weather is a bit fickle."

The MNR told The Highlander March 12, that as of early March, Haliburton County's snow depth and water content in the snowpack are higher than normal, ranging from 66-81 cm. "Flooding risk depends on snowmelt rates and weather patterns, which the MNR is closely monitoring.

A ministry spokesperson added they track snow and water conditions daily and adjust dam operations as needed.

"Annual conference calls with various agencies ensures coordinated efforts. If high water or flood conditions are likely, MNR will issue public notices. Local flood forecasting messages can be viewed online through the Flood Forecasting and Warning Program.

Rainy, wet weekend

Meanwhile, the Trent-Severn Waterway issued a water level management update March 11.

It said, "Parks Canada's water management team continues to actively monitor water levels, flows, and weather forecasts across the Trent-Severn Waterway. These factors are used to determine dam operations on a daily basis for the Trent-Severn Waterway."

It said the weather forecast for Friday, Saturday and Sunday suggests a precipitation event of 15 to 30 mm combined with plus-temperatures approaching 10-15 degrees in the day and above zero at night. This will be followed by more seasonal temperatures.

"Rainfall and warm temperatures earlier in the week have, for the most part, primed the snow to be ready to runoff. Water levels and outflows are expected to increase at all locations due to the precipitation and snow melt."

For Haliburton and northern areas, they specifically said, "most reservoir lakes remain at their respective winter-set dam configuration. Water levels on the lakes, in general, are below average and are leveling off after the recent rain-on-snow event. Flows on the Gull and Burnt Rivers are near average for this time of year and will likely increase with the rainfall and warm temperatures. The current snowpack is measured to be above average for this time of the year."

The Gull River through Minden this week. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Ted Spence, chair of the Coalition for Equitable Water Flow (CEWF), said barring sudden warm weather with extensive rainfall, he doesn't think the Gull and Burnt Rivers will flood this year.

"Trent-Severn is very conscious of the flood risk in urban centres like Minden and they've got lots of capacity upstream of the Gull River right now to store additional water if they have to. At this stage, they're certainly not worried about flooding … well, they're concerned about flooding … but they don't see a flood risk as being anywhere significant in the situation they're dealing with."

CanoeFM shares $75K in bingo funds

CanoeFM announced this week that since July of 2024, they have distributed $75,000 in Radio Bingo proceeds to support other non-profit organizations throughout Haliburton County.

Manager Roxanne Casey said as Haliburton County's community radio station, they are "thrilled" to give back and help strengthen "the incredible organizations that make our community vibrant and resilient.

"This is what community radio is all about. Thanks to the ongoing support from our listeners and the success of Radio Bingo, we are able to share these proceeds with other, vital, non-profits doing important work in our community."

CanoeFM thanked its dedicated bingo players, volunteers, and community partners who make the initiative possible. "Your support not only keeps local radio strong but also ensures that essential services and programs continue to thrive in Haliburton County," Casey said. *(Lisa Gervais)*

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Highlander news

COUNTY OF HALIBURTON NEWS

Milburn Kendrick Conservation Reserve

The County of Haliburton is holding a public meeting March 26 on an application by the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust to the province to create the Milburn Kendrick Conservation Reserve.

The Land Trust will make a presentation to County council, followed by an opportunity for members of the public to address council regarding the proposed conservation reserve designation.

The meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the Lloyd Watson Memorial Community Centre, 2249 Loop Rd. Wilberforce.

The agenda for the meeting can be viewed online at: haliburton.civicweb.net/portal/

The meeting is also available via live streaming at: youtube.com/live/JRz37Qz5aJY?feature=share

The public can participate by registering to speak in-person at the meeting, or by providing written comments. Email clerk@haliburtoncounty.ca. Requests to speak or written comments must be received no later than noon on March 25. Those who register to speak will have up to five minutes for comments during the meeting. Individuals that do not register in advance may not have the opportunity to speak.

The name of the individuals registered to speak, and a copy of any written comments, will form part of the public record.

Questions regarding the meeting can be directed to County CAO Gary Dyke at gdyke@halibutoncounty.ca. Meanwhile, Citizens for Crown Land Protection are holding an open house March 23, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. at the Haliburton Legion.

Hike Haliburton a winner

The County of Haliburton has once again been recognized for its Hike Haliburton Festival.

On Feb. 26, Festivals and Events Ontario (FEO) announced the annual hiking event in the Haliburton Highlands was one of the top 100 festivals in the province.

The provincial organization recognized the County at an awards gala in Kitchener.

Hike Haliburton is a free, bi-annual event held in winter and fall. The autumn edition was established more than 20 years ago, as a way to promote the vast network of hiking trails across the County. The event is currently organized by the County's tourism department, and hikes are guided by local volunteers. The multi-day event attracts visitors from across Ontario, as well as local residents, who can participate in various levels of hikes, either on foot or snowshoes.

Haliburton County warden Dave Burton said, "Hike Haliburton is a shining example of what makes our region so special; stunning natural beauty, community spirit, and a passion for the outdoors. Winning this provincial award is a well-deserved recognition of the dedication and hard work that goes into making this event such a success year after year. Congratulations to everyone involved in bringing Hike Haliburton to life and thank you for showcasing the incredible experiences our region has to offer."

HHHS seeks County support

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) board chair, Irene Odell, and president and CEO, Veronica Nelson, came to County council Feb. 26 to discuss their master planning process.

In particular, they want the municipality to consider partnering with them to access funding through Infrastructure Ontario. They recently announced plans to consolidate long-term care at Hyland Crest in Minden, with a $49 million extension. They are anticipating needing financial assistance for the capital project.

"That means HHHS would partner with Haliburton County and pay back a mortgage that you would have access to through Infrastructure Ontario," Odell said.

The chair further indicated they would be looking for municipal support, for things such as zoning and permitting, if the build is approved.

Coun. Bob Carter requested a staff report before making any commitments.

(County of Haliburton news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

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TOWNSHIP SEEKING MEMBERS FOR THE PROPERTY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Township of Minden Hills is currently seeking resident members to serve on the Property Standards Committee for the 2024-2026 term. Interested individuals are encouraged to apply by submitting a copy of their resume and cover letter to admin@mindenhills.ca deadline extended to March 14, 2025. For more information regarding the Property Standards Committee visit www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- March 13 – Regular Council Meeting
- March 27 – Regular Council Meeting
- April 10 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

SPRING LOAD RESTRICTIONS (HALF LOADS) IN EFFECT

Half Load weight restrictions are placed on roadways and posted each year in the spring for approximately 1-2 months. Persons contravening this regulation will be prosecuted under Section 122 of The Highway Traffic Act. Please watch for and obey posted signage.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- The 2nd Annual Archie Stouffer Student Art Exhibit – The Land Between, will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until March 15. Artists from Grades 1 to 8 created over 100 pieces that are included in the exhibition.
- Nature's Place is open daily for March Break Drop-in Programs, March 10 - 14 from 10:00am – 12:00pm. Explore different themes each day through hands-on activities and exhibits! Suitable for ages 5+. Admission is by donation.
- We're Still Talking, an exhibit of fibre works by local artists Sandi Luck, Nadine Papp and Wendy Wood will be on display from March 20 - May 10 in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery. Join us for the opening reception with the artists on Saturday, March 22 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Refreshments will be served.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently recruiting for the following vacancies:

- Municipal Law Enforcement Officer
- Temporary Full-Time and Casual Operators in Community Services
- Summer Students for Parks, Recreation and Cultural Centre
- Finance Summer Student

Visit www.mindenhills.ca/careers for more information and how to apply.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: REDEVELOPMENT OF LOCHLIN COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Township of Minden Hills is seeking partners for the re-development of the Community Centre (4713 Gelert Road, Lochlin) and property and is requesting Expressions of Interest (EOI). The redevelopment plan(s) must meet a broad community need and include gathering space to serve the neighbouring and broader communities. To be considered, all replies to or questions about this notice should be submitted by emailing Wendelin Lonergan, Director of Finance, at wlonergan@mindenhills.ca

Deadline for submission: March 24, 2025, by 12:00 noon.

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON, K0M 2K0 | Phone: 705-286-1260 · Toll Free 1-844-277-1260 · Fax: 705-286-4917

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Highlander news

Dysart granting licences for 'most' STRs

By Mike Baker

Most people wanting to register their short-term rental (STR) properties in Dysart et al will receive approval in 2025, with the municipality pondering changes to its official plan that could impact licensing requirements in the STR bylaw it passed last year.

In a Feb. 25 report, bylaw officer Hailey Cole said the township had approved 80 applications by the middle of last month, with 33 pending. Of those, five didn't comply with Dysart's zoning bylaw, 16 had Ontario Building Code violations, and 12 required updated paperwork.

Currently, Dysart's zoning bylaw doesn't allow for properties with structures within the water setback, including saunas, sheds, gazebos, and hot tubs. To qualify, owners have been told they must first remove the structure. Some members of council, notably mayor Murray Fearrey, have spoken of the need to adjust that ruling.

Cole suggested a temporary solution – granting licenses on the provision illegal structures not be used and removed by Sept. 1. She noted some owners had complained they can't remove anything until after the snow has melted. Coun. Pat Casey said he'd heard from owners who felt they'd miss out on bookings for the upcoming season if they had to wait until after structures were removed to get their licence.

Council approved conditional licences for these properties, valid for one year from the date received. Cole said the arrangement includes an allowance for bylaw staff to carry out random inspections to ensure structures are not being used. Any violation will void the licence.

Property owners will be eligible for one conditional licence. Cole said they're only being offered to those with zoning violations – properties with Ontario Building Code infractions do not qualify. Upon expiry, owners will have to apply for a new STR licence.

She estimated Dysart has received applications for approximately half of the active STRs in the municipality.

With council considering changes to its official plan to allow for structures to be located closer to the water setback, and for things like renting out secondary dwelling units as STRs, Cole said those would require updates to Dysart's official plan.

"Staff have encountered several properties that wish to rent individual rooms within an owner-occupied dwelling. This falls under the definition of a bed and breakfast in the zoning bylaw, which is allowed in most urban residential and rural residential zones, but not in waterfront residential," she said.

Casey said he wanted to see that changed. "I don't think we should restrict that."

Cole said staff will move ahead with enforcement measures for owners advertising without an STR licence in late March.

Dysart et al coun. Pat Casey. *File.*

Consultation planned

Director of planning, Jeff Iles, has been working on updates to Dysart's official plan and zoning bylaw for months. At a meeting in December, council directed Iles to investigate allowing any one of a gazebo, shed, or sauna on a waterfront with a three-metre setback. The current setbacks are 20 or 30 metres.

To be approved, Iles is proposing that applicants own their shoreline or be required to purchase it from the township, saying "there are roughly 9,000 waterfront properties… adding 9,000 new structures to municipal property comes with significant liability concerns."

Neither Casey, nor deputy mayor Walt McKechnie, were in favour of that recommendation.

"To buy a shoreline you're pushing $20,000… I'm not saying it's a bad thing to alleviate liability, but could we do a licence of occupation… to make it more palatable for someone just looking to build a shed," Casey said.

Licences of occupation are often used to allow residents to install water-related infrastructure on a municipal shore road allowance.

Iles said he would investigate. Other proposed changes include: adding permission for one roof structure overlooking a waterfront; gazebos and saunas over 10 sq. metres will require a building permit; a two-metre vegetation buffer surrounding structures to protect the ribbon of life.

A public meeting will be scheduled for after the Victoria Day long weekend, with Iles and council saying it's important that residents be offered the chance to weigh in.

"This is just a starting point for us – we need to listen to what the public has to say, present what we have, and if we feel we need to change it after the public opinion comes in, we'll do that," said coun. Barry Boice.

Bursary helping women 'come out the other side'

By Mike Baker

The YWCA Peterborough Haliburton has put out a call for applications for the 2025 Hazel Education bursary.

Now in its 28th year, the annual fund is available to women who have experienced gender-based violence, helping them to reach their goals through education or training, says local YWCA executive director Kim Dolan.

Applicants are eligible for between $1,500 and $2,500, Dolan said. The award is named in honour of Hazel (no last name provided), an advisor and volunteer for community services in the region, who passed away in 1996 after a long battle with breast cancer.

"Hazel was a remarkable woman who lived in a rural community north of Peterborough. She had a dream of finding a way to help women overcome barriers related to violence and abuse to support them to pursue their dreams.

"Hazel believed that everyone deserved a chance and that chances should be made possible," Dolan said.

Applications are due by May 1, and are open to any female survivor of domestic violence and abuse who has "a dream to strengthen their economic security," are a resident of Peterborough or Haliburton County, and seek to further their formal or informal education, or develop skills.

Women from rural areas will be given special consideration for the award, per Hazel's request.

Dolan said, for years, Hazel endured a difficult home life.

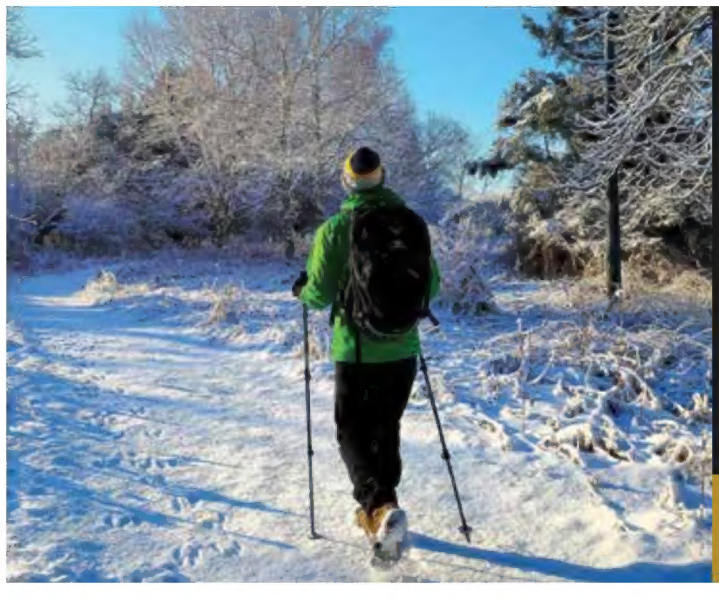
"She overcame obstacles that stood in the way of success. This carried her back into the world she left; only now she was helping other women to address family-oriented barriers, such as domestic violence, child health, subsidized housing, poverty, rural isolation, and access to training and education," Dolan said. "She befriended all those she touched."

Hazel's daughter, speaking anonymously, said her mother was a pillar of strength for many in the community, noting that through the bursary her enduring spirit lives on and continues to help struggling women long after her death.

"Perhaps you have overcome some barriers already. Now you are being given a chance to take another step towards your goal. Not only are you making a place for women through your actions, but you are also carrying her spirit with you," she said.

Dolan said past recipients have, "become community advocates and workers in non-profit organizations, social workers, creators of art, small business owners, and community leaders."

For more information, visit ywcapeterborough.org/get-help/education, or contact Emily Jensen at 705-743-3526 ext. 120, or ejensen@ywcapeterborough.org.



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Highlander news

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Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce

DYSART ET AL NEWS

Forest expansion

Haliburton Forest's biochar wing is set to expand after Dysart council approved a plan to almost double the footprint of the commercial wood processing site along Kennaway Road.

In his report, planner Kris Orsan said an application from Haliburton Forest was to increase the floor area of all buildings at the location from 2,800 sq. metres to 4,354 sq. metres. The company plans to build two new storage structures and a 20-car parking lot.

"A proposed feedstock building will store wood chips and bark sources from the Forest sawmill on Kennisis Lake Road. The second will house the finished product – engineered, high-quality biochar, which is packaged, palletized and typically shipped within one-to-two weeks of manufacturing," Orsan said.

Biochar is a carbon-rich, charcoal-like substance produced by burning forest material in a zero-oxygen environment. It can be used to enhance soil texture, as a livestock feed additive, and to create oil and gas by-products that can be used as fuel.

Haliburton Forest started investigating biochar in 2016, investing $10 million to expand its work in the field in 2022. The company's managing director, Malcolm Cockwell, said the product has a positive impact on the environment, displacing various fossil fuel products for a net emission reduction of approximately 4,200 tonnes of CO_2 equivalent annually.

"I'm glad to see they're progressing and it looks like they're going to create some jobs with this, too, which is fantastic," said Dysart mayor Murray Fearrey.

Hitting the road

There will be a seven-figure investment in road resurfacing in Dysart this year, with council approving a $1.128 million bid from Miller Paving Ltd. for work on four rural routes.

Public works director, Rob Camelon, said during a Feb. 25 meeting the bid was 2.3 per cent over what he'd budgeted late last year, noting the additional funds will be drawn from the department's capital budget.

Roads seeing work this year are: a 1.5 kilometre stretch of Mountain Street from Ridgeview Road to Parish Line; 6.1 kilometres of Watts Road from the south intersection of Kennisis Lake Road to Carnation Lane; 1.6 kilometres of Redkenn Road from County Road 7 to Whippletree Lane; and 800 metres of Illman Road from County Road 19 to Brooktrout Run.

A second bid, from Duncor Enterprises, came in at $1.234 million.

Dysart council signed off on $1.1 million of road resurfacing for 2025 at its Feb. 25 meeting. *File.*

"It's good to see we're getting pretty competitive bids," said coun. Barry Boice.

Support for P4P

The township is partnering with County-based housing advocate Places for People (P4P) in lobbying for provincial money to improve energy efficiency at a handful of below-market rentals in Haliburton.

Fay Martin, P4P vice president, said there's an opportunity via the Green Municipal Fund to get up to $24,000 to cover pre-development costs for upgrades at its eight-plex at 104 Highland St.

The organization purchased the facility last year, maintaining all existing tenants. Since P4P charges only for rent, covering utility costs, Martin said it's been a challenge keeping up with the building's high cost for heating.

"We are very anxious to improve the energy efficiency… we'd use this money to evaluate the building, develop a team to bring it up to standard, and do other stakeholder evaluations and engagements that we need to," Martin said, noting there would be no cost to the township.

Kosy relief

Council has given the new owners of Kosy Korner five years to pay off $21,150 in water and wastewater charges after township staff learned the facility had been operating above its means.

Chief building official, Karl Korpela, said the restaurant was approved for up to 62 seats when it opened in 2006, requiring seven equivalent residential unit (ERU) hook-ups for water and sewer.

In applying for a liquor licence for the business, Brendan Clarke, who took over last summer, noted the restaurant's maximum capacity was 100 people. Korpela said this necessitated an additional 4.5 ERUs. Dysart charges $4,700 per ERU.

Clarke was hopeful council would reduce the amount owed, but Fearrey retorted, "if we do it for you, we've got to do it for everyone else. And we can't do that."

Boice said he's "scared of what the downtown is going to look like in two years if we don't work with people," suggesting a payment structure. Council agreed, giving Clarke until 2030 to cover the balance.

Wigamog no-go

Dysart bylaw officer Hailey Cole said the township did not meet the requirements to receive an exemption from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) to complete teardown of the Wigamog Inn.

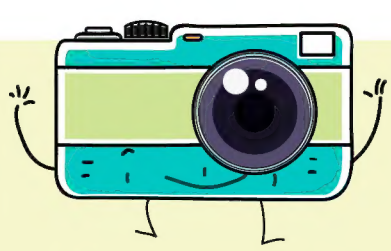
Demolition of the facility has been on hold for close to two years, with a dozen or so outbuildings flattened in April and May 2023 before MECP followed up on reports of species at-risk living in the area.

Ministry spokesperson, Gary Wheeler, said there was evidence of the eastern hog-nosed snake and endangered bats residing in the area.

Frustrated by the delays, council sought permission to demolish the site on behalf of the owner, Aurora Group, but were denied.

"Things are back on hold at this time," Cole said, offering no further timeline.

(Dysart et al briefs compiled by Mike Baker).



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AH 'toes the line' with budget

By Mike Baker

Algonquin Highlands mayor Liz Danielsen has described her council's 2025 budget deliberations as a belt-tightening affair, with the township limiting its tax rate increase to 4.26 per cent – the lowest in Haliburton County.

That will see residential ratepayers cough up an additional $15.98 per $100,000 of their home's assessed value, with the commercial hike at $23.70 per $100,000, and industrial $27.64 per $100,000.

Discussions stretched across two full days Feb. 27 and 28, with council tentatively approving costs of $19.3 million for the year on March 6. Taxpayers will cover just under $7.1 million of that – a 5.62 per cent ($376,250) increase from last year, with $12.2 million coming from provincial and federal transfer payments and municipal revenues.

"We're well ahead of anybody else, which is good… I think council and staff did a really good job landing on something that is as reasonable as we can possibly make it given the times we're living in, the projects we have coming up, and what our priorities need to be," Danielsen said.

Council shaved about 1.4 per cent off the tax rate increase by eliminating $94,650 from the first draft of the budget, reducing the amount set aside for a parking master plan for the township including municipal docks and landings, limiting contributions to trails reserves, scrapping plans to add a stationary truck service to its existing waste services, and building new pickleball courts in Stanhope, Dorset and Oxtongue.

The transportation department accounts for the largest slice of the municipal pie, with anticipated costs of $8.4 million (43.73 per cent). Next is parks and recreation at $3.4 million (17.53 per cent), emergency services $3 million (15.5 per cent), and general governance $2.1 million (11 per cent).

Costs at Stanhope Municipal Airport are projected at $699,000 (3.62 per cent), with planning and development expenses $338,000 (1.75 per cent), and health expenditures $20,265 (0.1 per cent).

Municipal reserves are down approximately $490,000 – a six per cent decrease. Treasurer Jean Hughes said the township is adding $1.875 million to its various reserve funds, but drawing $2.364 million. Danielsen said she had to be "uncomfortably comfortable" with that.

"I get really nervous about reducing them too much – but considering we started out with an 11 per cent reduction at first draft, I think we did well," she said. "Costs to run a municipality have increased dramatically over the past five, six, seven years… it seems to me like there needs to be a better balance [with the province] over who is responsible for what.

> *"Costs to run a municipality have increased dramatically over the past five, six, seven years ...*
>
> ***Liz Danielsen***

"Some of the things that have been downloaded to us for healthcare, housing, and other social services… it adds up. And when you consider the increased costs to maintain and replace infrastructure, for things like policing – stuff we have absolutely no control over – it's getting harder to toe the line."

Danielsen believes Algonquin Highlands has "a pretty low [tax] levy compared to a lot of other municipalities in Ontario."

Where money going

Danielsen said council approved a four per cent increase to staff wages in 2025, up from an initial two per cent, which along with some additional hires added $274,000 to the budget. She said that was done to ensure non-unionized workers got the same raise as those in unionized positions.

Just over $2.3 million will be spent on roads, through the redesign and repair of a 2.2-kilometre portion of North Shore Road and surface treatments on Braelock, Airport, Green Lake, and Heron Landing roads as well as Havey Avenue East.

Danielsen said she expects work to wrap on the new $4.4 million public works garage in Stanhope this year, which she described as a "really, really big project."

Around $525,000 will be invested into the Dorset Recreation Centre for HVAC upgrades, a new digital sign and electronic vehicle charging station; the Dorset Tower will receive $225,000 in upgrades to enhance lightning strike protection; $150,000 has been budgeted for firefighter hall repairs, training group enhancements, and more specialized firefighting equipment; with $110,000 earmarked for the airport for runway lighting upgrades, installation of new gates and fencing, tree clearing, and hangar repairs.

The township's four landfill sites – Maple Lake, Pine Springs, Oxtongue Lake and Dorset – will see $100,000 for trench development, bin replacement, scale software implementation and site improvements.

A new $50,000 vehicle has been approved for the bylaw department for monitoring and inspections related to the new short-term rental program.

Succession planning at The Link

By Lisa Gervais

The Haliburton County Development Corporation, the Haliburton County Home Builders Association, the Business Development Bank of Canada, and the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce are joining together to present a free panel of industry experts on succession planning for local businesses and entrepreneurs.

It will be held at The Link coworking space in Haliburton from 5:30-7:30 p.m. March 19 and will feature seven experts, in the fields of law, accounting, estate planning, real estate and more.

Succession planning helps to make a smooth transition to new ownership while maintaining the values of an established business. Business owners, new entrepreneurs, and anyone wondering about the future of their business, are welcome to attend.

Panelists will cover what business owners and sole proprietors need to know about succession planning and answer questions from attendees.

HCDC executive director Patti Tallman said, "HCDC is committed to serving business owners and the Haliburton County community. Succession planning is about planning for your leadership team to leave the business and plan for a smooth transition to new ownership while maintaining the core values. A goal without a plan is just a wish."

Aggie Tose, executive officer of HCHBA, added, "the Haliburton County Home Builders Association works hard for their members. Succession planning is important to keep our industry strong and vibrant."

Amanda Conn, executive director of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce, said it's never too early to start succession planning and consider the different paths for your business as it evolves. "Whether you are developing your initial business plan, actively executing your succession plan, or any point in between, this session and the chamber are here to support you at every stage in your succession planning journey." -

Attendees are asked to pre-register by contacting HCDC at 705-457-3555 or emailing ebarlow@haliburtoncdc.ca. Light snacks will be available. Located at 5152 County Rd 21 (beside Timber Mart).

MY Haliburton HIGHLANDS

What's Happening in your county...

Mar 15 St. Patrick's Day - Local Musicians Live Music - Algonquin Cookhouse

Mar 15 Top of the Morning Breakfast - Irondale Community Centre

Mar 15 St Patrick Celebration - Day Boshkung Social

Mar 15 Blake Halladay Live Music - Sir Sam's Ski/Bike

Mar 16 Bill Black Live Music - The Dominion Hotel

Mar 17 St. Patrick's Happy Hour Live Music - The Dominion Hotel

Mar 21 Leprechauns High Tea - Ommmh

Mar 21 Sleeping in Cars Fundraiser – Head Lake Park

Mar 22 Spring Open House - Fleming Haliburton Campus

Mar 22 We're Still Talking - Opening Reception - Agnes Jamieson Gallery

To see the full listings of events, visit

myhaliburtonhighlands.com/whats-happening

Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
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OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Take control

By Lisa Gervais

I tentatively click on my *Toronto Star* tab these days. I'm in the business, so I need to know what is going on outside of Haliburton County.

But I am a human, too. I dread the latest news on Canada's trade war with the U.S. and the next action, or reaction, from U.S. president Donald Trump and his administration.

We now have an escalating trade war. Ontario premier Doug Ford slapped 25 per cent tariffs on utilities in New York, Michigan, and Minnesota – only to have The Donald threaten 50 per cent tariffs, up from 25 per cent. He's had a predictable rant on social media.

The headlines are dour… 'Trump threatens 50 per cent on steel, aluminum; Doug Ford says we will not back down, we will be relentless'.

Two white men of a certain vintage trying to show whose tariffs are bigger. God help us all. (As of Wednesday, both parties had backed off, temporarily halting new measures, with Ford set for emergency talks with U.S. commerce secretary Howard Lutnick on Thursday).

In the meantime, like many of you, I am wondering what I can do.

Last year – after years of terrible Bell Canada service – we got Starlink at our house. With owner Elon Musk part of Trump's administration, that arrangement will have to end, with Rogers likely now to get my business. It will mean giving up some quality of service, however, I can no longer support Musk.

Thankfully, I don't have to make too many hard decisions at the liquor or beer store. Most American products have been removed – even here in the Highlands. Frankly, I won't miss the watered-down American beer.

And, like many of you, I am trying to be a better shopper of Canadian goods. I am avoiding online shopping from companies that do not hail from the north. Trips to the grocery store are taking a whole lot longer as I scrutinize the labels to ensure whole, or parts, do not come from the U.S.

I'm looking for 'Made in Canada', 'Product of Canada', and 'Assembled in Canada.'

It's tricky. 'Made in Canada' products must be made of a minimum 51 per cent Canadian material or content, while 'Product of Canada' requires 98 per cent Canadian to get the certification and the direct costs of producing or manufacturing the product must have also been incurred in Canada. It's the Competition Bureau's job to keep an eye on this.

When shopping online, the first thing I'm looking for is the domain name. The .ca domain name means the business is 100 per cent Canadian.

And, naturally, you can shop from purely Canadian companies right here in Haliburton County. There are places that make clothing, home and lifestyle goods, food and drinks, service pets, plants, and a plethora of services. You can't go wrong with independent businesses.

I don't know about you, but when the news sends me round the bend, I feel a little better knowing I have some control over a situation. So, if that means cancelling Starlink and making a concerted effort to shop local, or seeking out 'Product of Canada' labels, it makes me feel just a little bit better.

Broaden our horizons

By Mike Baker

So, will he? Or won't he?

I have to feel for the thousands of Canadian entrepreneurs embroiled in a third month of a forced, nonsensical game of chicken with U.S. president Donald Trump, who continues to threaten blanket 25 per cent tariffs on most exports from the Great White North.

Speaking to a half dozen business owners in the County this week, most said it was an impossible task trying to plan for an unknown future. Trump has thus far said tariffs would come into effect Feb. 4, delayed them to March 4, reiterated they were absolutely, positively going to come into effect last week, only to change his mind again and delay until April 2.

It's the kind of circus the world has, unfortunately, come to expect from the second-term POTUS.

While Trump may have thrown the first punch when announcing the tariffs shortly after his inauguration Jan. 20, it was Canada that landed the first blow this week, with the federal government implementing its own 25 per cent tariffs on $30 billion worth of goods from the U.S.

The move targets American food and drink, clothing, cosmetics, furniture and appliances, tobacco, motorcycles, car parts and precious metals among 1,250 individual items.

With Ontario premier Doug Ford now also engaging in this tit-for-tat, we suggest efforts would be better spent coming up with ways to distance ourselves, our economy, from the neighbour to the south.

Malcolm Cockwell, managing director of Haliburton Forest, suggested this stand-off could and should lead to necessary changes to trade habits in Canada. Did you know that it's actually easier for some Ontario businesses to sell and ship goods halfway across the world than to send them to Quebec or British Columbia?

Barriers to certain products exist in most regions due to varying provincial regulations on things like health and safety, product labelling, alcohol sales, and professional licensing. This inefficiency has been allowed to stick for far too long – in the face of this very real U.S. threat, it's time for all Canadians to band together.

Amanda Conn, executive director of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce, said the Chamber network has spent years lobbying for greater collaboration in-country.

Perhaps it's time, too, to think about how we can become more self-sustaining as a nation. What's preventing businesses from manufacturing their goods in Canada? What can we do to make that more feasible? Let's take advantage of this swell of national pride and bring Canadian entrepreneurs who outsource back to the table.

A circular economy, where things are largely made and consumed in Canada… what a concept.

And for those that do export – there's a whole wide world out there beyond the U.S. Multiple County businesses said they are already looking at new markets in Europe and Asia.

Canada has been dependent on the U.S. for far too long. It wouldn't be prudent to sever ties completely, after all many Americans are on Canada's side in this unnecessary war. But the curtain has been lifted. We've seen how vulnerable we truly are.

All it takes is one man coming in to undo decades of partnership and good will. You know how the saying goes – fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice…

SEND IN YOUR PHOTO OF THE WEEK

AND

SEND US YOUR OPINION!

Send them to editor@thehighlander.ca

Correction: In 'King Charles visits Haliburton County' *The Highlander*, March 6, we made a mistake in reference to St. Paul's Anglican Church Thrift Shop. We said some of the sales' proceeds go towards the church. That is incorrect. Proceeds go entirely to charity. We apologize for the error.

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Gateway drugs

Dear editor,

When I learned that then prime minister Justin Trudeau promised the populace that he would make marijuana legal in a national, 'please like me' move, I was chilled to the bone.

People who had never had any interest in mind-altering drugs were tempted 'just to see what it's like' and enjoyed what a 'high' was like, and then many sought avenues to find a way to get even higher.

It was the genesis of the drug disaster we now face. i.e. increased policing of those activities of some dealers who offer stolen pharmaceutical drugs, which have a purpose for patients who are in great and on-going pain.

They are now a commodity in the drug trade and are used by people who aren't in great physical pain, but in mental pain. It's supporting the drug trade, and necessitating increased police involvement, too often resulting in injuries or worse to the policing forces.

Anne-Marie Borthwick
Haliburton

NIMBY factor

Dear editor,

I loved the letter from William E. R. Beatty re: Ross Atkinson's opposition to a proposed dog kennel.

Have to wonder what Atkinson will have to say if a pack of coyotes moves into the area and yips all night, or about the snowmobiles zooming around at all hours of the night.

The NIMBY factor continues to place unreasonable deterrents to progress. Wanting cell service but no towers, gas at the pump but no refineries or pipelines, hydro but no transmission lines, garbage removal but no dumps - makes absolutely no sense whatsoever.

When we opened Highlands Cinemas in 1979, one of the neighbours complained to council that the driveway would cause dust on their parked cars…go figure.

Keith W. Stata,
Kinmount

Hit back where it hurts

Dear editor,

Donald tRump (*my preferred spelling*) has started a trade war with Canada, Mexico and China. He has stated that similar trade wars will be started against other countries. As a result, all countries are preparing to initiate punishing responses. Hopefully, they will have an immediate impact and bring sanity to the current nonsensical situation.

But there is something else that can be done at a personal level.

For years, Donald has made a habit of belittling opponents or those he does not like. He used pejorative names like Sleepy Joe (for Joe Biden), Crazy Hillary (for Hillary Clinton), Meatball D (for Ron DeSantis), Birdbrain (for Nikki Haley) and, of course, Governor Trudeau (for prime minister Trudeau).

Well, it is time to hit back in a personal and comical way.

From now on, I seriously urge all politicians and all media outlets across the world to stop being polite and start referring to him without using his title. From now on it should be called Donald (as Justin Trudeau used), DJT, Number 47, Little Donald, the Dictator, tRump or anything else that comes to mind. If those pejoratives are not strong enough, there are many other terms available – like Mad Donald, the Orange Peril, Fatso, that Golf Nut or the Balding Blond. Yes, those in the latter list are malicious and should be used sparingly and only when he starts using malicious nicknames.

He seems to favour strong dictators and belittle those he considers to be weak. It is time to fight fire with fire and show that the rest of the world is strong and willing to hit back where it hurts – even with playful nicknames. Perhaps he will then get the message.

Dennis Choptiany
Koshlong Lake

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

A sleepy Barred Owl caught resting in Fort Irwin. *Photo by Randy Barber.*

HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

Just a guy who likes to fish

By Susan Tromanhauser

Brian Johnston was born a celebrity. Arriving in the Haliburton hospital Jan. 3, 1992, his birth was celebrated in the local news as the first of the year.

However, today he is known throughout the area as "that fishing guy."

Johnston grew up on Beach River in Algonquin Highlands and like typical young people, upon graduating Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, left the area to see the world. He headed to Vancouver Island where he spent a year learning about heavy machinery, and about himself. But Johnston missed the atmosphere of the small-town community and returned to the Highlands.

It did not take long for Johnston to find his true calling - fishing. He always enjoyed fishing with his father growing up, but when a friend introduced him to bass fishing he was hooked. His life soon evolved around fishing every weekend and he now fishes "from ice-out to the bitter end of November." With the warmer weather in 2023, he was fishing for walleye on Dec. 27.

Johnston purchased his own fishing boat and "is spoiled with all of his equipment, electronics and all the rods you can dream of." He has fished throughout the United States, the Kawarthas and Lake of Bays, but it is the Highlands Johnston enjoys the most. He has fished every lake in the region and knows the unique ecosystem of each one. He is most enthusiastic when he shares his knowledge and experiences, so it was no surprise when he began Hooked on Haliburton Fishing Guide Services.

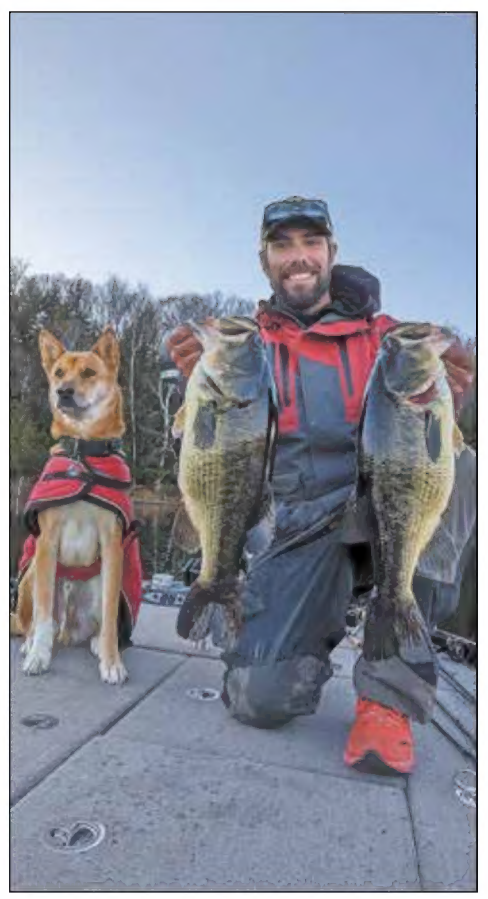
He enjoys teaching new anglers the fundamentals of fishing, and sharing experiences with seasoned fishermen. What he enjoys most are the conversations. Johnston has a talent "to adapt to people's personalities," which makes every fishing trip a fun learning experience for his guests and himself every time.

Johnston says in the Highlands "all lakes are good." He explains lakes are like a puzzle, each one having its own rock formations, weed growth and fish habitats. "You can go to school for aquaculture but you do the real learning on the water. There is a whole ecosystem underneath the water." Johnston has learned what fish do, their unique behaviour.

Johnston gets excited when people catch their personal best, but shares a typical fisherman story about the one that got away. His still has nightmares about being so close to catching 27 pounds of five fish, which would break the provincial record. When asked which lake this occurred, for once Johnston was not forthcoming, only saying "it was definitely in the Highlands."

Johnston loves his home community. He had a great childhood and would love future children to have the same experience. He's still fishing for the right partner. Our conversation is interrupted by a passerby. "Hey, are you Brian the fishing guy?"

I ask if he enjoys being a local celebrity. He laughs and says, "no, I'm just a guy that likes to fish."



Brian Johnston doing what he loves most.

Highlander business

For heaven's sake – business closes

By Lisa Gervais

Haliburton's Handmade Heaven – a business that opened its doors this past July 27 – has suddenly closed. So, too, have all other outlets across Ontario.

The space at 160 Highland St. is up for rent, the store's phone number is no longer in service, social media pages have been taken down, and *The Highlander* was unable to contact owner Sam Milne.

However, a Facebook page called Ontario Small Business CT said last week, "it has come to our attention that in the last 48 hours, the owner of Handmade Heaven deleted all the businesses' social media, closed their website, and sent out an email indicating that all locations are closing.

"We have been informed by over 50 of the vendors across all locations that Handmade Heaven has not paid their vendors in months and has collected significant sums of money from vendors for 2025 rentals." None of this has been proven.

However, vendors did share a letter they said was sent to them by Handmade Heaven in the early morning hours of March 4. It said, "effective immediately, we are closing all Handmade Heaven locations. This was a very hard choice but due to the ongoing online harassment, bullying and now threats, we can't successfully continue. The staff has now been at risk. This is now before the courts as a legal matter. Those that participated will each be held accountable."

It went on to ask vendors to make arrangements to pick up their items and

Owner Sam Milne at the Haliburton store when it opened last summer. *File.*

displays. It said the Haliburton location would be closed March 3 and 4, and be open March 5 until March 9, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A vendor at the Haliburton location, who requested anonymity, said they had paid rent until the end of April. They said they have not gotten the money back. The vendor said they emailed Milne with no response.

The Haliburton vendor added they were able to get their stock. "We went Wednesday and took it out. I wasn't taking any chances. Chalk it up to 'I'll know better next time'."

Adrian Grigore, of Lynx 87, based in Eagle Lake, said he was a vendor from opening day until Jan. 1. He said he decided to end his arrangement because he was paying more to rent the space than he was making in sales. He was unaware of last week's sudden closure.

After launching Handmade Heaven in early 2023, Milne told *The Highlander* he was excited to set up shop in Haliburton; his sixth location, joining stores in Peterborough, Barrie, Oakville, Markham, and Toronto.

A "modern" take on the community marketplace model, Handmade Heaven provided hobbyists and up-and-coming entrepreneurs space to promote and sell their goods.

The Highlander was unable to reach the building's owner for comment.

Jug City Shell closed

Another County business has closed suddenly, with the Jug City Shell on Hwy. 35 in Minden shuttering its doors this week. Signs on the window say "closed until further notice" and the telephone went unanswered. *The Highlander* emailed the landlord, but had not received comment as of press time. The gas display sign reads $0 and the pumps have caution tape around them and signs that read "out of service. Sorry for the inconvenience." The plaza is still home to Pet-Tyme Animal Krackers, Sonya's Unisex Hairstyling, and Fast Lane Bowling. *(Lisa Gervais)*

HHOA
WILD GAME
DINNER & AUCTION
SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025
HALIBURTON LEGION
BAR OPENS AT 5:00 PM
DINNER AT 6:30 PM
SILENT AUCTION
$50.00/person
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
Contact Linda at 705 457-2064 for credit card purchases
or at HHOA on Tuesdays & Thursdays 10am to 2pm at
705 457-9664 for in person or credit card purchases.
The wild game served at this event has not been inspected
under the R.S.O meat inspection act.
Domestic meat available

Haliburton's Terra Lightfoot up for Juno

By Lisa Gervais

Haliburton County musician, Terra Lightfoot, is going through a bit of a whirlwind at the moment.

She has just come off tour with Colin James, saying, "it was amazing to go across the country with those guys. We had such a good time. Lots of great music, lots of great people. It was just a beautiful time."

Next up, she and husband John are headed to Peru for a charity trip with Canada's Great Kitchen Party. "We're going to see Machu Picchu," she said.

The next day, they will fly from Lima, Peru to Vancouver – as Lightfoot has been nominated for a Juno Award, with the ceremony taking place March 30 at Rogers Arena.

> *The Highlands is a place where I started feeling like myself for the first time in my life.*
>
> ***Terra Lightfoot***

Lightfoot is up for adult alternative album of the year for *Healing Power*. She is up against *Inuktitut* by Elisapie, *Revelation* by Leif Vollebekk, *We were born here, what's your excuse?* by The Secret Beach and *Never Better* by Wild Rivers.

While not her first Juno nomination, Lightfoot said this one is special.

"It means a lot to be nominated for this record because this is a record that I wrote in the Highlands. And the Highlands is a place where I started feeling like myself for the first time in my life.

"My husband and I found this house and we feel so lucky to live here, and be influenced by nature, and so to have an album that, it feels like my truest representation of me and my music getting nominated for a Juno feels really good."

Healing Power is Lightfoot's fifth album.

"This just feels right because this is the first place I've ever felt like home."

She recalled how the last time she was nominated, she was up against Gord Downey, "and so that was an easy one."

However, she is looking forward to a great dinner, and free massage for nominees Sunday morning, "so I'm feeling good no matter what."

It will also be the first-time seeing host Michael Bublé live.

"I've never seen him perform or anything, so I think this will be really fun."

Terra Lightfoot is off to Vancouver for the Juno Awards later this month. *Submitted.*

Highlander community

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has received applications to consider a by-law to stop up, close, and convey a parcel of land, being a shoreline road allowance, and more particularly described as follows:

1. File No. PLSRA2024045: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Davis Lake lying in front of 1108 Dockside Drive, located within Part Lot 8, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Lutterworth

2. File No. PLSRA2024047: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Davis Lake lying in front of parcel having roll number 4616-051-000-19000 on Dockside Drive, located within Part Lot 8, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
The above noted applications are available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced application, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than end of day on **April 11, 2025**.
AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned not later than April 11, 2025.
AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE if deemed advisable, a By-law giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider a By-law for the above referenced applications will be scheduled at a later date following the requiste commenting period.

Amanda Dougherty, B.A. (Hons)
Manager of Planning
Township of Minden Hills
705-286-1260 Ext. 506
adougherty@mindenhills.ca

PLSRA2024045

PLSRA2024047

Rotarians behind bars

Minden Rotary toured the Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment recently, with Sgt. Martin Tomaszewski leading members through the various departments, including one of the jail cells. Lynda Litwin said, "Sgt. Tomaszewski patiently answered all our questions and told us about the current policing needs in the community. Domestic abuse, homelessness and mental health calls are the top issues that the local OPP deal with. We are so fortunate to have experienced and talented officers serving our County. The community room at the OPP station is available to local service clubs and organizations to use for a meeting space." *(Lisa Gervais)*

Pictured above: left to right, Betty Mark, Jeannine Espie, John Kerr, Dave Woodcroft, Sally Moore, Andy Campbell, Lynda Litwin, Scott Baker and Jeanne Anthon. *Submitted.*

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Shining light on FUN in Wilberforce

By Mike Baker

Wilberforce FUNraisers volunteers pose by a new bench installed outside the Highlands East township building. *Submitted.*

Kathy Rogers and the rest of the Wilberforce FUNraisers group are doing what they can to put their favourite rural community on the map.

For years, even amongst locals, the running joke has been that anyone unfamiliar with the area, who blinks while passing through the downtown, will miss it completely. Or, even worse, keep their eyes wide open, yet still have no idea where they are.

That's all changed in recent months though, Rogers said, with a group of volunteers raising money to install lights on the 'Welcome to Wilberforce' sign along Hwy. 121 and placing a new custom bench outside the Highlands East township offices. Created by Wayne Quibell of Highland Creek Builders, the decorative piece is inscribed with 'Wilberforce' in big bold letters alongside a red maple leaf.

"One of our members was saying at a recent meeting that there's nothing here in town that says 'hey, you're in Wilberforce', so we decided to do something about that and bring a bit of dazzle to our downtown," Rogers said.

The bench was installed in December and is the latest reminder of the work the FUNraisers do in the community.

With about a dozen active members, Rogers said its mandate is to bring families together and take pride in their community.

Launched about a decade ago as an offshoot of the now-defunct Monmouth Township recreation committee, the FUNraisers are responsible for annual Wilberforce events such as the Maple Syrup Festival and Penny Raffle. They also regularly assist with the Highlands East fire department's First Responders' Day.

"Our goal is to see our local town, businesses and municipality thrive," Rogers said.

Born and raised in the community, Rogers said she was brought up on volunteerism. Her mom was involved in the curling club and first brought Brownies, a sub-section of Girl Guides for those aged seven to 10, to town. Her dad was a volunteer chief with the fire department.

"I guess you could say it was in my blood – being involved has always been very important to my family," Rogers said. "Being in such a rural small town, the reason we have most of the things we do is because people stepped up to make them happen… FUNraisers are just carrying on the tradition."

Maple Syrup Festival, taking place April 19, is celebrating its 44th anniversary this year. Planning for the Penny Raffle, a celebrated summer-time tradition for many years, is also on the go.

It was through the raffle that Barb Schofield was introduced to the group in 2016. Another who has spent her entire life in Wilberforce, she enjoys the social interactions with FUNraisers most.

"I just like doing something to enhance the social atmosphere of the town – the whole point is to get people out so they can meet other people and have a good time," Schofield said. "A lot of what we do is very kid-centric. We'll be giving away bunny ears to kids at Maple Syrup Festival. We have a lady who dresses up in a costume and hands out chocolate eggs. It's all about the smiles."

She also enjoys raising money for the school bursaries program, with the FUNraisers replicating a program in Gooderham that gives money to students pursuing a post-secondary education. The group has distributed six grants since 2017, totalling $3,000.

Rogers said she hopes to receive at least one bursary application this year, while saying the FUNraisers is also planning to invest in Herlihey Park.

To donate, or become a member, contact wilberforcefunraising@gmail.com.

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Highlander community

Cadets creating leaders of tomorrow

By Mike Baker

Colt Taylor credits the Haliburton Army Cadets program with moulding him into the man he is today.

Local troop 1129, for youth aged 12 to 18, celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2025. Taylor, a volunteer instructor with the corps, has been involved for 16 years – seven as a cadet and nine as a mentor and coach to the County's next generation of recruits.

"Cadets promote citizenship and help kids develop values and traits such as responsibility, leadership, courage, discipline, and accountability," Taylor told *The Highlander.*

The group, which boasts about 30 active members, meets Tuesday evenings at the Haliburton Legion for training nights. Taylor said cadets also participate in specialty assignments some weekends.

There's no cost for youth to attend, with the program funded by the federal government and receiving further support from the County's legion branches, the Haliburton Highlands Resource Centre, and the Minden Lions and Lioness' club.

Taylor said sessions are split into three periods, featuring some form of physical training and instruction. Youth are challenged to develop their fitness, critical thinking, and outdoors-based abilities. He said they'll have the chance to experience rock climbing and mountain biking, learn first aid, and camp out under the stars while learning how to use a map and compass, GPS technology, and basic survival skills.

As cadets gain more experience, they may be selected for parachuting and national expedition programs. There will also be chances to learn how to handle firearms through regular marksmanship classes.

That's Taylor's forte. For years, he's coached the cadet's marksmanship team. Respect and discipline are the aim of the game, he said, working with selected youth sporadically throughout the year, but weekly in the lead up to competitions.

Taylor said the troop utilizes a Daisy 853C air rifle, with cadets taking turns shooting 20 targets roughly three centimetres in size from distances of 10 metres and beyond. Shots can be taken in prone and standing positions.

The Haliburton team performed well at a competition in Belleville Feb. 23, placing third out of 10 teams in the Central Ontario zone competition. Taylor said five cadets represented the County at the event.

> *"I love the program – it's taught me a lot over the years.*
>
> ***Colt Taylor, Haliburton Army Cadets***

"The team woke up as early as 3:30 a.m. to meet the bus at the Haliburton Legion for pick-up at 5… they were at a disadvantage as other teams got a lot more sleep, and some other cadet corps have additional gear such as competition marksmanship jackets, but they exceeded expectations.

"The cadets were very happy with their results and are already excited to start practicing for a first-place finish next year," Taylor said. "They should be very proud of their accomplishment and for representing Haliburton."

Taylor said cadets also get involved in the community, attending ceremonial military events and volunteering time to worthwhile causes. Last summer, the group assisted with the rehabilitation of 'The Haliburton' M4 Easy Eight Sherman tank.

"I love the program – it's taught me a lot over the years," Taylor said. "It turns people into leaders… the Haliburton cadet corps is always looking for new recruits."

Meetings are Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Haliburton Legion. For more information, contact haliburtonarmycadets@gmail.com, or call 705-457-8002.

Haliburton Army Cadets instructor Colt Taylor with Emily Austin-Ward, John Austin, Jackson Trautman, Henry Thompson and Nehemiah Morgan at a marksmanship competition in Belleville Feb. 23. *Photo submitted.*

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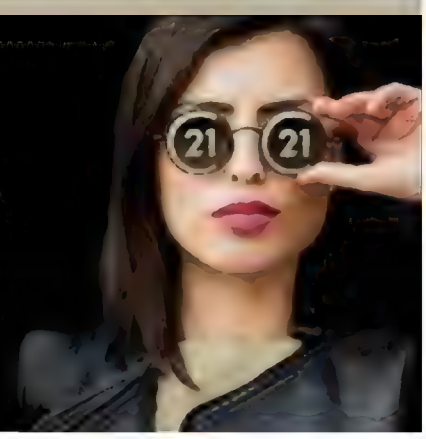

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Highlander events

Skulduggery at Nature's Place

Nature's Place in Minden hosted a 'skull detectives' exhibit for the public March 10 – kicking off March break. Robert Wong, cultural program coordinator, was on-hand to answer questions about the interesting skulls. They also had other activities available, from Origami to hiding out in a beaver den.

Above left: Aerys and Killian Gillam are excited to see the skulls and do some detective work. Middle: Quinn Aleksander holds a beaver's skull. Right: A wolf's skull on display from the Haliburton Forest Wolf Centre. Left: Danielle Spellman and her boys, Hendrix and Cohen, enjoy folding some Origami. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

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Highlander events

Clowning around

The rescheduled Razzamatazz show from earlier this winter was back on Sunday, March 9, with an incredible performance by the 'everyman' virtuoso clown, Jamie Adkins, in Circus Incognitus.There was a full theatre to watch the hilarious Adkins perform his clown show. For almost an hour, the sounds of children and adults laughing and having a great time filled the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion.

Top left: Jamie Adkins balancing a ball with his chair. Middle: Adkins catches an orange tossed to him by a spectator. Far right: Whew! Everything back to normal. Inset: Adkins takes his act to new heights. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

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The Huskies

Huskies quick out of the gate in playoffs

By Mike Baker

Taking a slender 2-1 series lead on the road to the St. Michael's Buzzers in Toronto tonight (March 13), Haliburton County Huskies coach Ryan Ramsay said he's been impressed with his team's mindset through the first three games of the Ontario Junior Hockey League (OJHL) playoffs.

The blue and white were quick out of the gates in games one and two, coming from behind to win 4-2 in front of a capacity crowd at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena March 8 and following up with a ruthless 5-2 win in the city March 9.

The team dropped game three in Minden 4-1 on March 11.

"It's better than being down 2-1, that's for sure," Ramsay said when asked how he's feeling about the series. "It's never nice to lose like we did Tuesday, but we knew we weren't going to win four straight games. This is a serious hockey team. We knew it would be a good, competitive series."

After finishing the regular season as one of the league's top-scoring teams, the Huskies have carried that form into playoffs, with 14 different skaters having at least one point. Chase Lefebvre, a trade deadline acquisition from the OHL's Brampton Steelheads, leads the way with three goals and two assists, while linemates Tai York and Ty Petrou have contributed four points each.

Goaltender Tyler Hodges has impressed, turning away 116 of 123 shots faced through three games – good enough for two wins, a 2.34 goals against average and .943 save percentage.

The Huskies battle for puck possession on a faceoff. *Photo by Justin Belanger.*

Early lead

In game one Saturday, with technical difficulties preventing the usual playing of O'Canada pre-game, the capacity crowd in Minden stepped up to perform a passionate rendition of the national anthem.

Both teams started strong, with the Huskies sticking to their possession-based brand of hockey and the Buzzers running a hard forecheck game. The visitors struck first through Ethan Nobes at 9:07, reducing the noise inside the rink.

The Huskies came out flying for the second. Declan Bowmaster tied things at 3:34, assisted by Stefan Forgione and Raine Nadeau, with Petrou helping himself to the go-ahead goal at 12:59, set up by Chase Del Colombo and Kaiden Thatcher. Alex Bradshaw added a powerplay marker at 18:39, which stood as the game-winner. He was assisted by Petrou and Cameron Hankai – this week nominated for OJHL defenceman of the year.

The Buzzers scored midway through the third, setting up a tense finale, but York came in clutch with a late empty-netter at 19:31, assisted by Lefebvre and Petrou, who had a three-point night.

Efficiency was the word of the day on Sunday as the Huskies withstood an offensive barrage from the Buzzers to claim a 5-2 win.

It looked like being a tough afternoon, with David Elmy scoring either side of a Lefebvre strike, to give St. Mike's the lead heading into the second half of the game. But the Huskies' stars stepped up – York tied the game at 8:01, Hankai had the go-ahead goal at 11:24, before Lefebvre and a second from York added some gloss to the score in the third.

Tough night

It was one-way traffic during the opening period of Tuesday's 4-1 defeat in Minden, with the Huskies recording 25 shots on goal. One of those snuck by Buzzers netminder Jacob Gorinsky, with Lefebvre getting his third goal of the post-season at 16:43, from Daniel Vasic and Deandres De Jesus.

That was as good as it got for the Huskies, who missed top line forward York through illness. Hudson Cummins scored on the powerplay seven minutes into the second, with David Elmy potting the game-winner shorthanded midway through the third.

"Those are always momentum shifters. Usually our powerplay makes the difference, but we were 0-6 through the game. That's something we'll address in practice today," Ramsay said March 12.

There was controversy late in the third, with the Huskies believing they'd tied the game when Stefan Forgione drove the net and helped the puck in. The goal was ruled out after officials judged the net had come off before the puck crossed the line.

With the Huskies deflated, Willem Kerr added a quickfire pair to close out the game.

"We expected a response; they were playing for their lives. I think they just outworked us for parts of the game. I liked how we played – we outshot them, outchanced them, and were probably missing a bit of luck.

"We're a good team, they're a good team. The margins are pretty slim at this level. We've just got to do the little things right if we want to have success. There's still a long way to go in this series," Ramsay said.

Game four is in Toronto March 13 at 7 p.m., game five in Minden March 15 at 4 p.m., game six in Toronto March 16 at 2 p.m. if required, with game seven scheduled March 18 at 7 p.m. in Haliburton.

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The Huskies

Top left: Forward Chase Del Colombo finishes his check. Top right: Co-captain Ty Petrou locks in on a target. Middle left: Players bow their heads during the singing of O' Canada, which was led by the crowd due to a technical glitch. Above: Huskies mascot Huskie waving a team flag prior to puck drop. Left: Teammates surround Chase Lefebvre after he opened the scoring in the first period of Saturday's game.
Photos by Justin Belanger.

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STARS of the WEEK

PARKER NEVILLE

Parker has been a huge asset to the U7 Blue team for the entire year, and the jamboree was no exception. Blocking shots, Parker made some beautiful saves on the ice and snatching the puck out of the air with his glove.

BRAYDEN MISCIO

The unstoppable force of Brayden's wrist shot, combined with his skillful stickhandling, made Brayden a stand-out player during the tournament. Watching Brayden weave around the opposing team's players and bury a perfectly-aimed snap into the corner of the net is always a pleasure.

RHYS FOSTER

Rhys gave it his all this weekend, showing seemingly inexhaustible speed and energy. He crashed the net, never giving up or backing down – and got the goals to show for it.

Photos by Tim Tofflemire.

Leon MacInnes prepares to shoot. *Photo by Justin Belanger.*

U7 Blue strut stuff at Glen Dart

The Highland Storm U7 Blue GJ Burtch Construction team had an amazing weekend at the Glen Dart Jamboree in Haliburton. The players worked so hard in all four of their games, showcasing all the great passing, shooting and defensive skills they have been learning all year.

Both as a team and individually, the players were really shining this weekend. Goalie Parker Neville made countless incredible saves, continuing to be an impenetrable wall in the net. Brayden Miscio, Rhys Foster and Harper Roberts were goal-scoring machines, dominating the team's offense with speed and precision. Kenny Heickert and Logan Nelson played fantastic defence with great energy, and Parker Shenton had some wickedly strong shots. Levi Kinghorn and Will Thomas continued to impress the coaches with their improvements every game, showing how hard work and a positive attitude really pay off. Leon MacInnes and Matthew Foisy brought high energy, rushing and determination to the ice, and Charlotte Houghton and Blaeklynn Reynolds made some solid passes and got some great rebounds in front of the net. All the players showed true sportsmanship and teamwork.

A special thank you goes out to coach Matt and assistant coaches Brad, Jeremy and Stu for all you've taught our players over the past six months. Their improvement is thanks to your patience and dedication. *(Submitted)*

SCORE BOARD

March 3

- U11 REP Cottage Country Building Supplies vs. Mariposa 4-2 W
- U15 The Pepper Mill Steak & Pasta House vs. Sturgeon 7-5 W
- U15 REP Haliburton Timber Mart vs. Millbrook 5-2 W

March 4

- U11 REP Cottage Country Building Supplies vs. Mariposa 6-3 L
- U13 REP Cheryl Smith RE/MAX vs. Lindsay 5-0 W
- U18 LL Tom Prentice & Sons vs. Sturgeon 6-2 W

March 5

- U13 Casey Water Well & Geothermal vs. Brock 2-1 L
- U9 Sharp Electric vs Manvers 10-0 L
- U18 Tom Prentice & Sons vs. Lindsay 4-2 W

March 6

- U15 REP Haliburton Timber Mart vs Millbrook 4-3 W
- U11 REP Cottage Country Building Supplies vs Mariposa 2-1 L

March 8

- U11 Carquest Minden vs. Kawartha 6-5 W
- U9 MD Haliburton Hockey Haven vs. Newcastle 3-2 W

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DIANE WARREN: RELENTLESS 91 mins

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11:45 AM

SAVE SOLACE 71 mins

documents the work of a group advocating to stop the planned construction of a new logging road in the last unprotected forest in Ontario's Temagami wilderness.

Q&A WITH MATT STEEVES, DIRECTOR

12:30 - 1:30
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1:30 PM

PORCELIAN WAR 97 mins

tells the story of a group of artists from Ukraine who persevere against all odds. This is a beautifully shot film that explores spaces of beauty within destruction. It is a story of love, art, friendship and survival.

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3:30 PM

RED FEVER 103 mins

follows Cree filmmaker Neil Diamond with humour and honesty, he shines a light on appropriation and the impact on Indigenous people.

7:30 PM

BEETHOVEN'S NINE: ODE TO HUMANITY

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What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Room. Youth darts league, for ages 10 to 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the clubroom. All are welcome.
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m in the clubroom. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m. between September and June.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, main hall. Bingo hopefully returning in March.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month.
Fridays: meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. 50/50 draw at 5 p.m, tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Clubroom hours: Monday 3-9 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday closed.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for rental information call Cheryl Waller at 905- 447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com/facility-rentals Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129…everyone is welcome!

The Legion's mandate is to help veterans, assist with their mental and physical health and social wellbeing, provide a feeling of togetherness and combat isolation. All are welcome to attend our events.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

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Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

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Tuesdays: closed
Wednesdays: open 2 to 6 p.m.
Thursdays: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Fridays: open 2 to 11 p.m.
Saturdays: open 2 to 9 p.m.
Sundays: closed, special events only
Darts at 7 p.m. March 17, 24 and 31. Cost is $5 per player. Afternoon sessions at 2 p.m. March 19, and 26. Cost is $4 per player.
Cornhole at 7 p.m. March 13, 20 and 27. Cost is $5 per player.
HHHS social recreation March 13 and 27 at 10 a.m.
Fish n' Chips Fridays March 21 from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 per person.
Wings and jam session March 14 and 28, from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 per pound.
Seniors 55+ lunch March 14 and 28 and noon. Cost is $17 per person
Meat draw March 15, 22 and 29 at 3 p.m.
Call the legion for more info at 705-448-2221.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 519 Coboconk

General meeting - **second Monday** at 7:30 p.m.
Euchre - **Tuesdays** 1 p.m.

Open darts - **Wednesdays** 7 p.m.

Big buck bid euchre first Wednesday of the month, from 11 a.m., $15 per person.

Meat roll every **Saturday** at 3 p.m.

Lunch on the last **Friday** of the month, $15.

EVENTS

March 13, 12:30 p.m. Teens are welcome at the Dysart library to create their own adorable wool buddy. There will be a variety of animal templates to choose from. No experience needed - just bring your creativity and have fun needle felting. All materials provided. Registration is required, do so by calling 705-457-2241 or visiting haliburtononlibrary.ca.

March 13, 4:15 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. Those Other Movies presents Ghostlight at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. When a construction worker unexpectedly joins a local theatre's production of Romeo and Juliet, the drama on-stage starts to mirror his own life.

March 15, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Top of the Morning Breakfast at the Irondale Community Centre. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a hearty meal of bacon or sausage, eggs, homefries and tea or coffee. Adults cost $15, children six to 12 $5, and five and under free. If bringing children, email ahead for a special surprise at historical@irondaleontario.ca.

March 18, 7 p.m. Presentation hosted by the Baha'i community of Haliburton on 'metabolic flexibility: the key to healthy aging' in the Schofield Room at the Haliburton Legion. Featuring a discussion with Dr. Norm Bottum on simple lifestyle changes people can make to improve their metabolic health. Opening with music by Brian Sachs and Peter Smith.

March 19, 7 to 8 p.m. 100 Women Who Care Haliburton is meeting at the Haliburton Legion. The organization supports charities in the County, meeting three times a year to hear pitches from groups before selecting a recipient. Individual members donate $100 to the chosen charity. Come early and bring a friend. Email 100wwchaliburton@gmail.com for more information.

March 21, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Aging Together as Community Haliburton Highlands is hosting a seminar centred on 'support and independence: finding the right balance' at the Haliburton Legion. Discussion will surround keeping active, using available resources to live independently, and making your home safe and comfortable. Italian-themed dinner served by Molly's Bistro and Bakery. Event is also virtual. Register by calling Connie at 705-457-7215, or email constancewood@gmail.com.

March 21, 6 p.m. Places for People is hosting its annual Sleeping in Cars fundraiser in the Head Lake Park parking lot, with funds supporting operations and housing projects with the non-profit. To register, visit placesforpeople.ca.

March 22, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Spring open house at the Haliburton School of Art + Design. Attendees can engage live art demonstrations led by students and instructors, visit the student art exhibit in the great hall, and enjoy a walk along the adjacent Sculpture Forest trail. To register, visit flemingcollege.ca/myopenhouse.

March 22, 1 to 3 p.m. Opening reception for 'We're Still Talking' at Agnes Jamieson Gallery in Minden. Featuring textile artists Nadine Papp, Wendy Wood and Sandi Luck. Gallery is located at 176 Bobcaygeon Rd.

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What's on

March break's a zoo

Zoo to You, a travelling educational animal exhibition, came to S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena March 10 for March break. Children from the camps being held at the arena were joined by families from the public to join in the animal extravaganza. Handler Hailee expertly introduced the kids to each of the critters and let them interact with them, from high-fiving Charlotte the Tarantula to wearing a Python necklace.

Top left: Hailee from Zoo to You gets the kids ready to see some animals. Top middle: Fiona the Cayman holds on to his mom's shoulder. Top right: Nathan Kelsh is wearing a Burmese Python necklace. Second row, left: Theo Hebert gets to hold Charlotte for a bit. Middle: Treekah the Tree Frog says hello to the gang. Right: Hailee introduces the kids to Charlotte the Tarantula. Middle: Dad Jason, future vet and nature lover Sky, and mom, Lyndsie, say hello to McCafferey the Tortoise. Right: McCafferey the Tortoise makes his way over to Oliver Hebert, while Addie Hamilton gets to touch Ash the Velveteen Rabbit. Right: Haileigh Gallagher meets Springer the Gecko. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

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FOR SALE

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CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Celebration of Life

Helga Dickob

1939 – 2025

With a heavy heart I must inform you that my wife Helga passed away suddenly on Thursday February 6, 2025, at the Fenelon Court Long Term Care, Fenelon Falls, Ontario. Helga was 85 years young – just 2 months short of her 86th Birthday: April 9, 2025. Helga was well cared for and all the staff liked her. I thank them very much for that. Helga and I were planning to have her come home to our farm, after the winter was over, for overnight visits. Unfortunately, our plans were not meant to be.

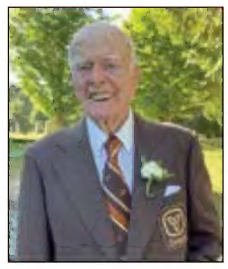
Helga's Sisters, Nieces, Nephews and friends in Germany are heart broken and will hold a celebration in Fuessen, Bavaria. Helga will be missed by all of us. Helga was always a very friendly and generous person. Helga and I were married for 62 years and lived in Toronto. Helga worked 31 years for the Royal Bank in Toronto and Lindsay. Helga and I both enjoyed nature and animals. In 1969, we bought a cottage on Crystal Lake and enjoyed many summers and winters there. In the mid 70's, we bought a 100-acre lot on Crystal Lake Road. We built a house and developed a fish farm there. In 1980 we moved up and never regretted what we did. Helga and I always worked as a team. With her continued support, Kinmount Fish Farm became well known in Ontario and beyond.

I miss Helga every day! Helga's cat and I will stay in our home as long as we can. Please come and join me in Celebrating her life and sharing stories about her life.

Saturday, March 22, 2025 from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at The Royal Canadian Legion located on Hwy 35, Minden, ON.

Thank you, Karl Dickob

OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of

George Alexander Hamilton

(Retired Forester with the Ministry of Natural Resources)

George was born in Toronto on March 6, 1928 and passed away peacefully at home on his birthday on Thursday, March 6, 2025, with his family by his side, at the age of 97.

Beloved husband of the late Marjorie (nee Canam)(2021) for over 70 years. Loving father of Rod (Marion), Marnie (the late Steve) Bowcott, and Don (Kathy). Loving grandpa of 9 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. Predeceased by his brothers Buster and Rod and by his sister Mae McKay.

Nana came by train from Markstay and stayed with family until George was born. Grandpa was the CPR agent in Markstay, then Parry Sound. George lived in Markstay until he went to the University of New Brunswick for forestry. Summers were spent in Nipigon on a timber cruising crew. In 1948 he met Marjorie Canam, who was a nursing student in Fredericton and they were married in 1950 in a double wedding in Fredericton. After the wedding they moved to Gogama where dad was a forest protection supervisor in training. Rod was born in 1954 in Parry Sound, where Marjorie went to give birth. As his career progressed, George had several postings, including Sioux Lookout, where Marnie was born in 1958. After several more postings, including Sudbury, where Don was born in 1962, and Port Arthur where dad was District Forester. George then moved the family to Toronto, where he became the Chief of Operations for Natural Resources. Finally, George became the founding Director of the Frost Centre in Dorset, where he stayed until his retirement.

George loved the outdoors. He kept himself busy as an amateur pilot and had his own plane. He also hunted for many years with a group of friends on Cockburn Island. He volunteered with the Stanhope Seniors Group, was a volunteer fireman and, until only recently, coordinated the weekly shuffleboard club at the Stanhope Community Centre.

In keeping with George's wishes, cremation has taken place and a private family interment will be held at St. Stephen's Cemetery in Algonquin Highlands at a later date.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

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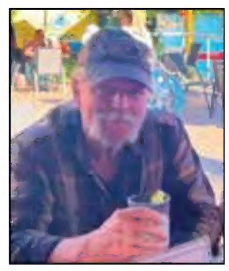

In Loving Memory of

Patrick Arthur O'Connor

1956 – 2025

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Patrick Arthur O'Connor on January 26, 2025. Patrick was a beloved brother to Michael (Martha), Shane (Christine), and Brian (Anne - 2016), and a cherished uncle to Caity & Patrick, Carey, Shannon & Kyli.

A graduate of Western University, Patrick enjoyed a remarkable career as a civil engineer. He began his professional journey with CN Rail before co-founding the specialized railway engineering firm Claire Wicklow Engineers. He then spent 18 years with Hatch Mott MacDonald, working on projects across Canada, as well as in Guinea, Jamaica and Pakistan. Known for his generosity in sharing his knowledge, many of today's railway engineering professionals credit his patient guidance as foundational to their success.

Outside of his career, Patrick found great joy snowmobiling with friends, and in weekends and holidays spent at his family's farm in Gelert. There, he put his best engineering skills to use as the self-appointed official Christmas toy builder, a tradition that brought much joy to the family.

After retiring in 2015, Patrick found serenity at his beautiful 1860s log cabin in Kinmount, nestled on 100 acres of natural beauty. There, he crafted scenic walking trails and embraced the tranquility of the land. Patrick's hands were never idle—his workshop was his sanctuary, where he would bring mechanical things back to life with remarkable skill.

A proud and respected member of the Old Saw Hunting Camp in Anson Township, Patrick enjoyed hunting and fishing with friends, where his ingenuity, musicality, and thoughtfulness were greatly admired.

Patrick leaves behind a legacy of hard work, adventure, and unwavering support. His warmth, wisdom, and generosity will be deeply missed by all who were fortunate enough to know him.

The family invites you to share photos or stories to MemoriesofPatOC@gmail.com. A Celebration of Life will be held in the spring.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

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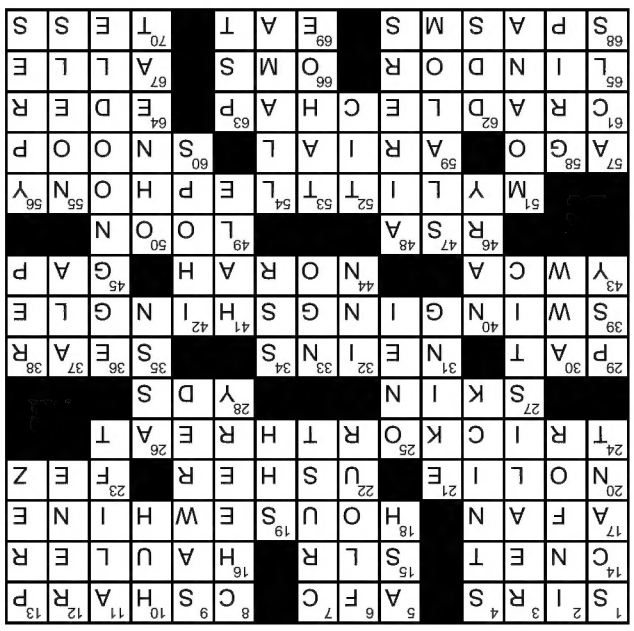
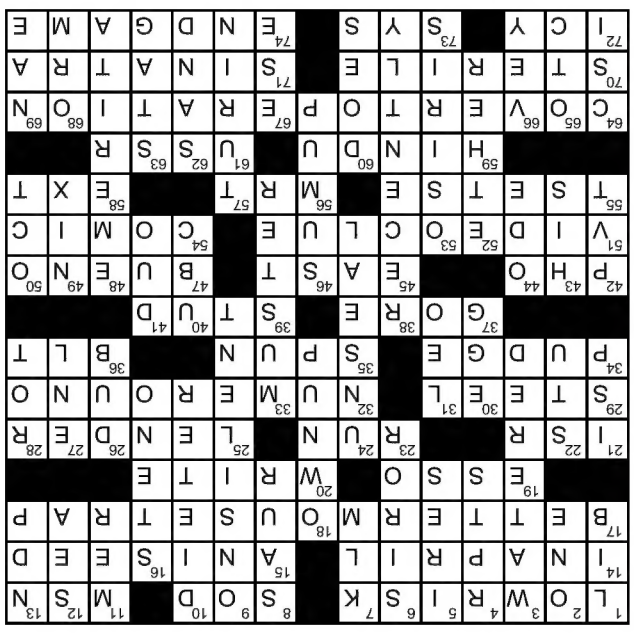


THIS WEEK'S SOLUTIONS



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9	5	7	3	2	6	8	1	4

HELP WANTED

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HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Haliburton County Public Library is currently recruiting for a Communications Coordinator
This part-time position (28 hours per week) develops and implements strategies to increase the community's engagement with library services and provides admin assistance. Hourly wage range is $32.29 - $37.77.

Applications
Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for detailed postings and job descriptions. Forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **March 10, 2025**.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.
In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

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EVENT

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NOTICES

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays, 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Wednesdays - 7:00 PM at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. in Minden - rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

NOTICES

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org

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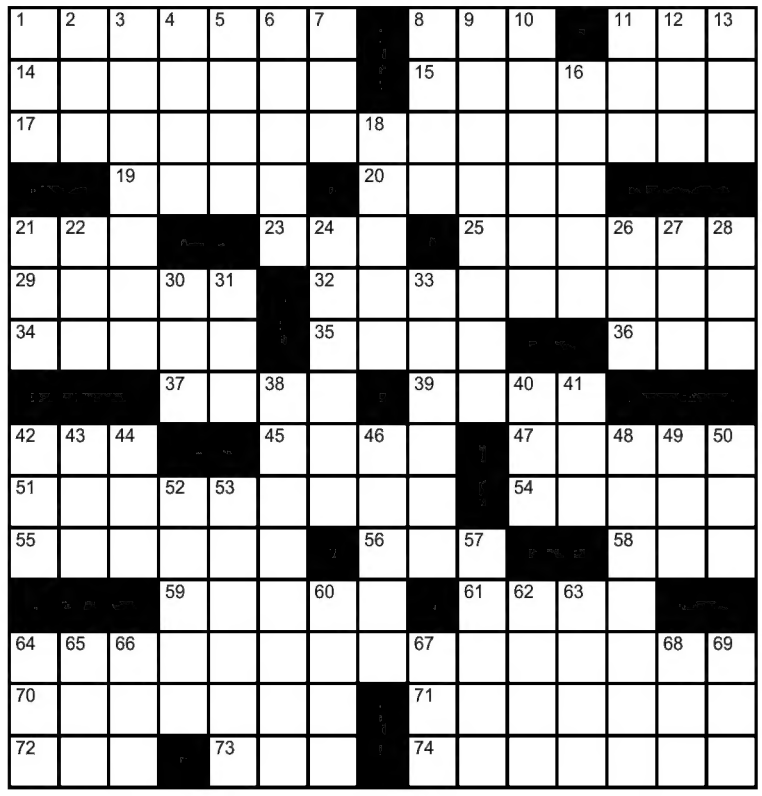
Highlander puzzles

The Play's the Thing

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords



Across

1 Having little at stake
8 Divot filler
11 Portal with a butterfly logo
14 When many Aries are born
15 Licorice-tasting herb
17 *Inventor's eternal quest
19 PetroCan rival
20 Penpal's plea
21 Kremlin : Rus. : : Knesset : ___
23 Stocking "ladder"
25 "... borrower nor a ___ be" (Polonius line)
29 ___ toe work boot
32 *Whom a selfish Italian looks out for?
34 Muffin top makeup
35 Worked like Rumpelstiltskin
36 Club sandwich alternative
37 Slasher movie staple
39 Hunky heman
42 Soup pronounced "fa"
45 The right way to go?
47 It's good in Guadalajara
51 *Filmed "Jeopardy!" bit featuring a celebrity
54 A real standup guy?
55 ___ fly (African menace)
56 "The A-Team" actor born Laurence Tureaud
58 Bus. phone add-on
59 Brahma worshiper
61 Where Ukr. was, until 1991
64 *Secret spy mission
70 Treated with antiseptic
71 "Ol' Blue Eyes"
72 Unsalted, perhaps
73 iOS component: Abbr.
74 Late stage of a chess match, and a hint the starred clues' answers

Down

1 Justin Trudeau's party: Abbr.
2 Any number divided by itself
3 Tended to the plants
4 Official accounts: Abbr.
5 Enrages
6 "Dear ___ Madam"
7 Schiphol Airport airline
8 Dino tail?
9 Disabled, as a ring tone
10 Noom app user
11 12-Down, in French
12 11-Down, in English
13 Jagmeet Singh's party: Abbr.
16 User of a 22-key typewriter
18 Confess
21 Web access co.
22 "The Simpsons" disco guy
24 Steam open, maybe
26 Do a voice-over
27 Big shot?: Abbr.
28 Kick up a stink, maybe
30 Halloween projectile
31 Sign of the sun
33 Build (up), as courage
38 Not that long ago
40 Van. campus
41 Quintet minus a trio
42 Rank that sounds confidential: Abbr.
43 Milton's "On ___ Blindness"
44 Suffix with an- or cath-
46 Recap
48 Retired female professor's title
49 Deep-six
50 Thanksgiving mo., in Canada
52 Early anesthetic
53 Husband and brother of Isis
57 Shroud of ___
60 Female rabbits
62 Golf course trap filler
63 Guys-only bash
64 Crime show with four spinoffs
65 Non-Rx
66 Part of a Yiddish cry
67 Legal wrapup?
68 "N ___?" (Christie title with a letter choice)
69 Not aye, said the Scot?

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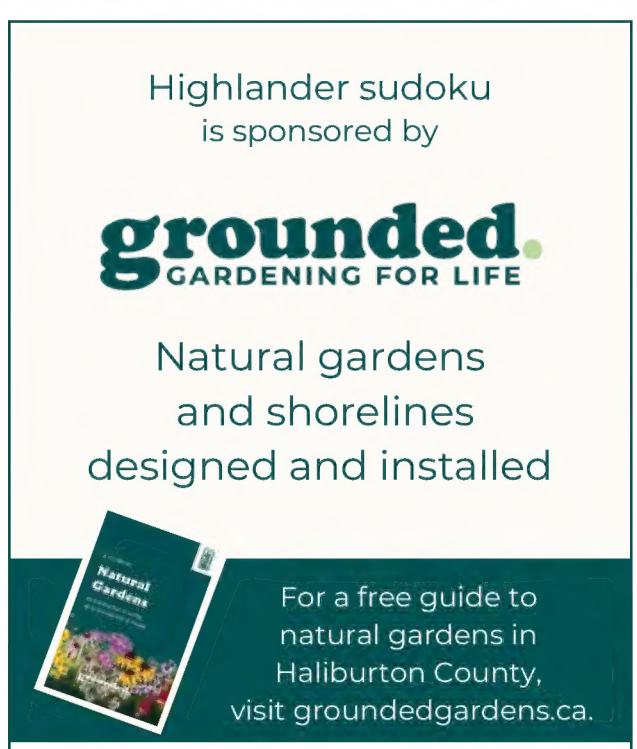
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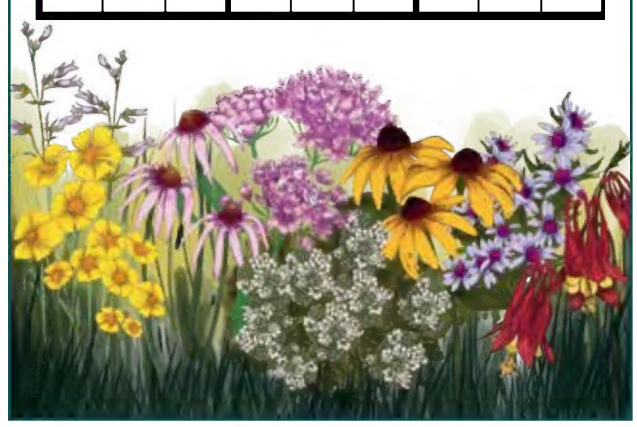

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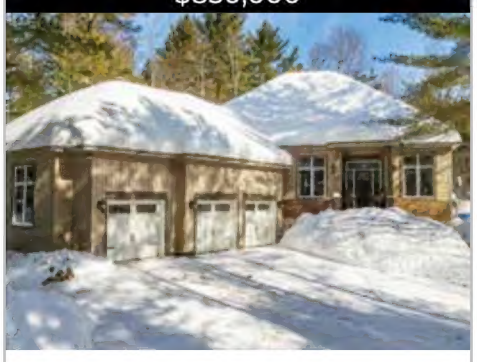

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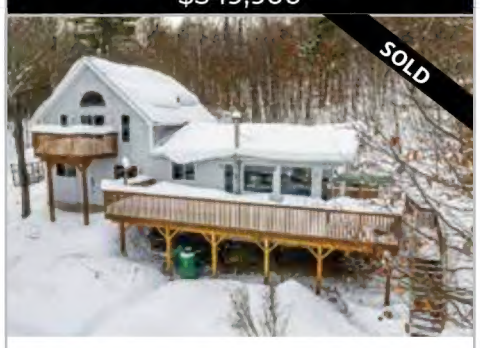

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5X BED | 3X BATH | MLS X10434162

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3X BED | 1X BATH | MLS X10435688

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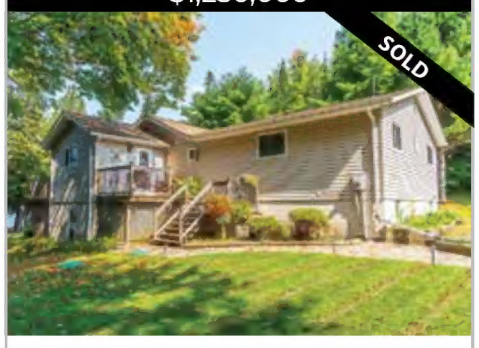

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3X BED | 2X BATH

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$750,000

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